CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Press Release

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Cal/EPA Revitalizes Collaborative to Encourage Use of Fuel Cell Technology

Sacramento, CA – To promote the commercialization and use of fuel cell technology, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) today announced the restructuring of an industry/government partnership known as the California Stationary Fuel Cell Collaborative (CaSFCC). The CaSFCC is comprised federal, state, regional, and local government agencies, and an industry advisory panel, that share an interest in commercializing fuel cells.

Cal/EPA Secretary Alan Lloyd also announced that California Air Resources Board engineer Ron Friesen has been appointed as Executive Director of the CaSFCC. While the CaSFCC has been in existence since June 2001, it has just been restructured to improve the participation of industry. Under the new structure, industry representatives will provide membership fees that can be used to jump-start the use of this environmentally friendly technology in the California marketplace.

“Since its inception the fuel cell collaborative has helped to position California as a world leader in addressing the environmental effects of energy production,” said Cal/EPA Secretary Alan Lloyd. “Now, with the increased participation of industry, the collaborative has additional resources to aggressively promote fuel cell technology in the California market.”

Dr. Scott Samuelsen, Director of the National Fuel Cell Research Center at U.C. Irvine and Co-Chair of the CaSFCC said, "These resources will be used to further the mission of the CaSFCC, which is to bring about the commercialization of fuel cells."

Fuel cells have the potential to improve public health and California’s economy. Despite its relatively high cost, fuel cell technology offers substantial long-term benefits, including reducing or

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eliminating air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, promoting energy reliability and security, and promoting energy diversity. Fuel cells are particularly well-suited for the emerging distributed generation market because of their quiet operation, production of high-quality waste heat that can be used to heat and cool office buildings and homes, potential for high reliability, and low emissions.

Over the past four years, California has provided incentives to fuel cell manufacturers to deploy clean and efficient generation capacity. These include the deployment of several fuel cell demonstration projects in California and the adoption by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) of a Self Generation Incentive Program. Additionally, in April 2004 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-7-04, establishing the Hydrogen Highway Network Initiative and specifically naming the Collaborative as a key participant.

Through the Collaborative, government and industry representatives are now working together to develop public policy for distributed generation, to support for well-designed demonstration projects, and to encourage the procurement of fuel cell systems by the State of California through enhanced incentive programs.

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